RETRACTABLE LABEL FOR COMPUTER TECHNICAL INFORMATION

FIELD OF INVENTION

[0001] The present invention generally relates to computer technical information labels. The present invention specifically relates to a retractable label for computer technical information.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Existing computer information labels convey a variety of information to a user. This information includes hardware safety information, hardware service information, agency information, information configured for computer interpretation, IP addresses, host names, contact information, warranty information, serial number, model number, part numbers, replacement part numbers, manufacturer information, and usage instructions, among other information. Typically, a great deal of additional information is included in books and manuals that accompany a computer system when sold. The purchaser must then keep track of the manuals, in the event that the user requires access to this information.

[0003] To alleviate the problem of misplaced or unavailable manuals, it is desirable to convey a great deal of information on labels affixed to the computer chassis. However, as computer hardware miniaturizes, chassis size decreases and the footprint of a label can interfere with air vents and cable connection space, undesirably limiting the chassis design due to a large label. Furthermore, with the miniaturization of hardware, power consumption often increases, as well as an undesirable increase in heat radiation from the hardware, making additional air vents in the chassis beneficial to the overall hardware design.

[0004] It is therefore a challenge for the computer industry to develop techniques for providing computer hardware information while reducing the size of the footprint of the label.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] A first embodiment of the present invention is a computer hardware technical information storage device including a flexible label movable between an open scroll and a closed scroll configuration. The flexible label includes an attachment end for affixing to a base member. The flexible label includes technical information displayed on a label surface.

[0006] A second embodiment of the present invention is a method for providing computer hardware technical information for a computer. The method includes storing computer technical information in a closed scroll configuration on a computer; and displaying the computer technical information in an open scroll configuration.

[0007] A third embodiment of the present invention is a system for providing computer hardware technical information for a computer. The system includes means for storing computer technical information in a closed scroll configuration on a computer; and means for displaying the computer technical information in an open scroll configuration.

[0008] The foregoing embodiment and other embodiments, objects, and aspects as well as features and advantages of the present invention will become further apparent from the following detailed description of various embodiments of the present invention. The detailed description and drawings are merely illustrative of the present invention, rather than limiting the scope of the present invention being defined by the appended claims and equivalents thereof.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] **FIG. 1** illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a retractable label for computer technical information in accordance with the present invention;

[0010] **FIG. 2** illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a retractable label for computer technical information in accordance with the present invention;

[0011] **FIGS. 3A and 3B** illustrate embodiments of a grasping tab used in conjunction with a retractable label for computer technical information in accordance with the present invention;

[0012] **FIGS. 4A, 4B**, and 4C illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a retractable label for computer technical information in accordance with the present invention;

[0013] **FIGS. 5A and 5B** illustrate another exemplary embodiment of a retractable label for computer technical information in accordance with the present invention;

[0014] **FIGS. 6A, 6B**, and **7-9** illustrate exemplary embodiments of a base member used in conjunction with a retractable label for computer technical information in accordance with the present invention;

[0015] **FIG. 10** illustrates one embodiment of a method for providing computer hardware technical information for a computer, in accordance with the present invention;

[0016] **FIG. 11** illustrates one embodiment of a method for storing computer hardware technical information for a computer, in accordance with the present invention;

[0017] **FIG. 12** illustrates one embodiment of a method for securing a flexible label containing computer hardware technical information for a computer, in accordance with the present invention; and

[0018] **FIG. 13** illustrates one embodiment of a method for displaying computer hardware technical information in an open scroll configuration, in accordance with the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

[0019] **FIG. 1** illustrates one embodiment of a system **100** including a flexible label for computer technical information in accordance with the invention. System **100** includes computer hardware **110** and rack system **120**. In the illustrated embodiment, hardware **110** is configured for rack mounting, although other configurations are envisioned, and included within the scope of this disclosure. Hardware **110** is any appropriate computer device, including a personal computer, server, drive assembly or other computer device contained within a housing. Rack system **120** includes a plurality of screw holes for supporting hardware **110** in a number of positions. **FIG. 1** illustrates hardware **110** supported in rack system **120** using bracket **155**. Bracket **155** includes a connection portion **150** for connecting bracket